

Shall We be Bought with our Own Money?

We have already called attention to the flagrant injustice done to North Carolinians in the repudiation of public debts contracted between 1861 and 1865 and the violent resumption of the payment of interest on State bonds dated before and after that time, when, by reason of continuous bad seasons, and unreliable system of labor and a general prostration in every branch of business, the State and the people are utterly bankrupt. The repudiated debt was held at home—the means of support provided by individuals, corporations and counties for the poor widows and orphans of the gallant men who laid down their lives in our defence. What county in the State had not, in some form or other, provided for these "wards of the State" by means of some of these repudiated debts? The other debt is owned mainly at the North, having been bought, the bulk of it, probably for fifty cents in the dollar, thus insuring twelve per cent. interest to these Northern creditors. Such a spectacle was never before exhibited in a civilized age. The starving widow stands waiting and piteously begging her miserable pittance to buy bread for her famished children, at the door of the treasury of that State in whose defence and at whose command her husband laid down his life. She waits and begs in vain, while the sleek, shrewd, cunning Yankee, well fed and well clothed, brushes rudely by her, enters the door, presents his bond, is paid, and comes out talking sanctimoniously about the virtue of paying debts and the sin of rebellion.

But the taking the bread out of the mouths of the widow and the orphan to pay Northern creditors is not all the wrong done or attempted to be done by this infamous Convention. Having by this outrage made our bonds saleable, they immediately, with a profane hand, showered them in every direction. All the unfinished roads in the State came in for a share, no matter that nothing more than a preliminary survey has been made—ask and you shall receive was the word. They have made a barefaced attempt to bribe the people with their own money. In behalf of one of the appropriations, that to the Mt. Airy Road, Mr. Tongee, from Guilford, the "stranger boy," who has upset the whole judicial system of the State, openly and shamelessly declared that the passage of the bill would make four thousand Republicans voters. After such conclusive argument in favor of the road, the bill passed the Convention without difficulty. And so it may be safely assumed that the value of each appropriation in Republican votes was duly ascertained. Can it be possible that our people will allow themselves to be bought and sold thus shamelessly and with their own money, too? We are very credulous of the capacity of our Northern brethren for "cuteness," and though we have been taught from our infancy to look upon them as the personification of the genius of trade, we yet have very serious doubts of the success of this operation. We do not believe that any respectable white man, so-called, will vote for this Constitution because the Convention made an appropriation to a railroad in his section. We do not believe that any respectable white man will consider that there is any gratitude or obligation due for an appropriation of money already his own. The bonds are ours and the roads are ours. If the Convention had built every foot of every road, they would have done nothing more nor less than build our own roads with our own money, for which we owe them nothing. Shall we for such reason as this vote for a Constitution that sacrifices the best interest of the people and State? IF WE ARE TO BUY OUR RAILROADS AT THE PRICE OF NEGRO EQUALITY FOR OUR POORER WHITE BROTHERS, WE SAY LET THE RAILS BE WHITE.

Holden's Political Disabilities.

Why don't Congress remove Holden's political disabilities? They dare not do it. They dare not trifle with the patience of the Western people by exercising self-bestowed power in behalf of that man in North Carolina who, more than any other, "fired the Southern heart;" who signed the ordinance of secession and handed the pen down to his children as a priceless inheritance; who pledged the "last man and the last dollar" in behalf of the Confederate cause; who nerved the arm of Booth to murder President LINCOLN.

No; Congress dare not exercise its clemency in behalf of this perfidious, self-confessed traitor—false to his allegiance to the United States and false to his allegiance to the Confederate States—who would desert Congress and its party to-morrow as readily as he abandoned President JOHNSON; who, too, their power longer to gratify his mad ambition should be lost. False to every principle he has ever advocated; false to every friend he ever professed an attachment for; responsible more than his neighbors for the inauguration of the war; the cause of much of the bad blood during its continuance, and the guilty promoter of much ill will, and hatred, and strife since its close, he stands before the world convicted of every political crime which makes men infamous.

Congress dare not so outrage the moral, social and political sentiment of the country as to remove the disabilities of this self-confessed traitor; THEY DARE NOT TARDON THIS INSURGENT OF THE MURDER OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

South Washington Precinct.

Our county canvassers addressed the citizens of South Washington precinct at Leesburg on the 1st inst. Their efforts are spoken of as being most effective. From a gentleman who was present, we learn that the people were full of spirit and fully aroused. The cheering news also comes to us that there is not a white Radical in this whole precinct. All express a most decided opposition to the Constitution, and a determination to vote it down.

The Militia.

"If we are to redeem North Carolina," says the Radical candidate for Governor, "we should sit at the feet of Brownlow, as Paul sat at the feet of Gamaliel. We can learn a lesson from him, and, having learned, should practice it to the letter." Here we have a distinct declaration from Gov. Holden of the views he entertains and the principles he will carry out should the negroes of the State, with the scallawags and carpet-baggers, secure his election, and under his administration we may expect a repetition in North Carolina of the government of Tennessee under this infamous prototype. We may expect, under his influence, two-thirds of our best citizens to be disfranchised. We may look for the same system of bribery and corruption in all departments of the Government, and the same insecurity of person and property, and for all this anarchy, confusion and corruption, those who have no power to prevent it, not even the poor privilege of entering a protest against these iniquities, must "foot the bill."

As ambitious as Gov. Holden is, and to attain his ignoble purposes he has prostituted every element of his character which ever gave him the least respectability or claimed for him the least consideration, he is a most ardent coward, and the base means he has used to secure political promotion seems to have sunk every particle of honest manhood he ever possessed. To feel secure in his ill-gotten position, should our poor old State be so sadly cursed, he will begin at once to organize his "loyal" militia; for he has frequently referred to Gov. Brownlow's militia in terms of earnest approval. Now, Brownlow's army of organized murderers and robbers cost the disfranchised citizens of that State three hundred thousand dollars a year. If this man, then, should be elected Governor, he will of course "practice to the letter" the lesson which this Tennessee Gamaliel (Brownlow) has taught this political Paul (Holden) to persecute the good christian people of this State. In fact, in a late editorial Holden said that when the "blue coats" shall be withdrawn from this State, the State militia, organized on a loyal basis, i. e. black and white, shall take its place.

We desire to call this declaration to the consideration of the impoverished people of North Carolina. THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND PER ANNUM to support a loyal (mixed) militia to act as a body guard to W. W. Holden and as whippers-in of the Radical party—an armed mob of prejudiced and paid partisans to do the bidding of bad men—sustained by a direct tax upon the Conservative people of the State amounting, for this single item of State expenses, to FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS MORE than the whole tax levied under the present Revenue laws of the State.

As a matter of dollars and cents, leaving out of view the disgraceful association attempted to be forced upon the whites by mixing them with blacks in the same company, and placing them under the command of negro officers, can our people afford the expense? Without bringing into the calculation for expenses of the State for 1869, the eight hundred and fifty-one thousand dollars which the Legislature is COMMANDED to pay for interest upon our public debt during the next year; leaving out the expenses incurred by the murderers who expended more than eighty thousand dollars in assassinating old North Carolina, and nearly a million dollars intended to bury the corpse and place in its stead the new North Carolina, which adventurers, renegades and negroes have created—the very magnitude of these figures is enough to startle every property owner in the State—are our people in the condition at this time to DOUBT their taxes, to furnish a cowardly Governor with a body guard and provide the Radical party with an armed mob of desperadoes for their base purposes of persecuting our own people?

Adopt the proposed Constitution and this will be one of the least of the expenses to be provided for; one of the least of the evils to be endured. Yankee malice could plot nothing more certain to ruin our people than the new Constitution. Many of them, such as Abbott and Ashley, and French the Suter, and French the Rowdy, and French the Scallawag, and other illustrious political speculators from the North, spit out their impotent rage at our people; but the polished knavery of Rodman and Heaton devised a more subtle and assure means of degrading and despoiling the citizens of North Carolina. And if the people are deceived into the trap, vengeance of Yankee pillars and the cowardice of Confederate deserters, and the aims and purposes of Northern Radical hatred will be appeased, and North Carolina will be RUINED and DISHONORED.

Speaking at Warsaw.
Quite a large crowd assembled at Warsaw on the 23d, to listen to the addresses of the Conservative speakers announced to take place. They were addressed by Col. Hall, candidate for Lieutenant Governor, Col. Allen, candidate for Senator, Mr. Stanford, of Duplin, and Maj. Engelhard, of New Hanover. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed and we are prepared to see a large and unanimous white vote polled at that precinct.

After the speaking had concluded, Col. Hall was the recipient of a most beautiful bouquet from one of the fair daughters of Warsaw.

Among such high-toned and honorable people there could be no division on the issues of this contest, and there is none. Duplin will give a vote of which her people may well be proud.

Conservative Ticket for Roberson County.
For the Senate—Col. Murrell McLean.
For Representatives—Col. Neill A. McLean, Capt. John S. McArthur.
For Sheriff—Robert King.
For Coroner—Cordery Godwin.
For Superior Court Clerk—John A. Rowland.
For Register of Deeds—George A. Smith.
For County Treasurer—Dugald G. McIntyre.
For County Surveyor—Rodrick McMillan.
For County Commissioners—James A. Bozzer, Benj. Godwin, James Blount, Thomas A. Norment, John T. Pope.

Conservative Ticket for Bladen County.
House of Representatives—George Cromartie, Sheriff—William B. White.
Superior Court Clerk—John T. Melvin.
County Treasurer (or Trustee)—B. M. DeVane.
Register of Deeds—J. B. Gillespie.
Coroner—B. L. Graves.
County Surveyor—James F. Gillespie.
Commissioners—W. W. Funn, D. G. Shaw, J. D. Lucas, A. E. Cromartie, John D. Currie.

Negro Equality.

The Radicals generally assert most strenuously that the proposed Constitution does not force negro equality upon the people of this State; that neither white nor black Radicals desire any such thing. They declare that there will be separate schools, but they say nothing about separate Universities, and to this point we wish to direct the attention of our readers. The Constitution of 1776, and in this respect unchanged in 1835, contained the following: "Section 41. That a school or schools shall be established by the Legislature, * * * and all useful learning shall be duly encouraged and promoted in one or more Universities." This clause is entirely omitted in the proposed Constitution, which makes no such provision, expresses no such permission to establish additional Universities. It refers only to "the University" already in existence, the one at Chapel Hill, and declares it "shall be held to an inseparable connection with the Free Public School System of the State," and thus, by implication at least, excludes the founding of any other University of North Carolina. It confirms all the old grants to "the University, and thus puts it out of the power of the Legislature to divert this property and these sources of revenue to any other University.

The lands given to the State by Congress for Agricultural School purposes, are also given to the University at Chapel Hill. These clauses, by giving such great preference to the University at Chapel Hill, place it out of the power of the Legislature to build another with equal advantages. It plainly follows, therefore, that the Radicals intended either to allow the negroes to Chapel Hill, or they intended to defraud the negro by excluding him from the enjoyment of the right he possesses equally with the white man under the new Constitution, to go to the University, which is nothing more nor less than the highest school in the "Free Public School System." Will the Coarcs allow him to be defrauded of this right thus guaranteed in the Constitution? A blind man must see that the Constitution does force negro equality in the schools.

They declare, also, that the negroes and whites are to be put into separate commands in the militia; that a negro regiment will be officered by negroes, from corporal to colonel. "But they will be drilled on the same parade ground, and they will fight, if war should come, under the same flag." Let us see if this works out any better than the "separate schools"—our people understand something about the organization of an army. Are the brigades, divisions and corps to be unmixed? When they "fight under the same flag" will the white and black columns be separate and independent commands? Is the Governor, the Captain General, the only man who can command men not of his own color? If an army should be raised and the negro commander was the second ranking officer, who would command the army in case of the death, sickness or absence of the army commander? By what means could a negro, in that case, be prevented from commanding white men? Suppose that a black and white regiment were drilling on the same parade ground and the negro colonel, being the ranking officer, should give an order to the white colonel, would he not be obliged to obey? The Constitution gives the negro the right to bear arms; to hold a commission in the militia. The gist and life of a commission is the power and command it gives the holder over those below him. The right to the commission is given by the Constitution, an authority paramount to that of the Legislature. There is no restriction in that Constitution saying that negro commissions shall not give power over white men. Can the Legislature, by any means, disavow any man of the full enjoyment of any right guaranteed by the Constitution? If a negro be elected Lieutenant, Captain, Colonel, or General in accordance with the forms of law, can the Legislature insert in the commission to which, by the Constitution he has a perfect right, a proviso that he shall have no authority to command white men, or to rank subordinate white officers? If so inserted, will the courts hold it valid? The whole thing is absurd.

Under the proposed Constitution it will be utterly impossible for the Legislature to prevent the conflict of the two races, either at school or in the militia, and yet, knowing this impossibility, and with all these consequences staring them in the face, the Convention deliberately, wilfully, knowingly and with malice aforethought, voted down amendments proposed to the Constitution which said in plain, express words, that whites should not be mingled with, or placed under, blacks.

Speaking in Brunswick.
According to appointment Col. COWAN and Major ENGELHARD addressed a large number of citizens of Brunswick, at Northwest on the 4th. Col. COWAN's speech, like all the efforts of that talented gentleman, was able, thorough and convincing, and must have a most salutary effect upon his hearers. The people are enthusiastic, and earnestly aroused to the magnitude of the crisis, as they are at every point which we have visited during the campaign. They are determined and will secure victory.

The Coalfield Railroad.
We learn from a gentleman who was present, that the Railroad Convention, which assembled in Fayetteville on the 3d inst., agreed upon the Ashboro' route with a terminus and connection with the North Carolina Railroad at High Point, as the route for the Coalfield Railroad. The vote stood 14,000 in favor of High Point as the place of connection, and 2,000 in favor of connecting at Greensboro'. The Wilmington interest was represented by Cols. S. L. Fremont and Peter Mallett. Some stubborn and telling "facts and figures" furnished by the first named gentleman did much towards influencing the action of the Convention. We are pleased at this result—for which the Journal has zealously labored for many months.

Shall MARRIAGE BETWEEN NEGROES and WHITES—amalgamation—be allowed? That is one of the issues.

The Meeting in Smithville—Brunswick Nominations.

The Conservative white men of Brunswick, in Convention assembled, at Smithville on the 4th, made the following nominations:

For the Senate, Col. John D. Taylor; House of Representatives, D. C. Allen; Sheriff, Rufus Galloway; Treasurer, John H. Theese; Superior Court Clerk, Dr. W. G. Curtis; Register of Deeds, John W. Galloway; Surveyor, Peter L. Sellers; Coroner, D. L. Butler; County Commissioners, Jos. Green, Wesley Hodge, Thos. G. Drew, Juo. L. Wescott, Daniel K. Burnett.

There was great enthusiasm manifested. Hon. Thos. C. Fuller addressed the meeting in a stirring and effective address. Speeches were also made by Messrs. J. W. Wright, of New Hanover, and Swift Galloway, of Brunswick. The nominees for the Senate and House of Representatives being present, accepted the nominations and addressed their fellow-citizens.

For the Journal.

An Exciting Week in Bladen?

Messrs. Editors:—This week, just over, has been characterized by events of interest and importance. It had been previously advertised that our county nominating Convention would be held on Monday, and a larger or more enthusiastic gathering of the people of Bladen was never known. After the preliminary business had been arranged, the meeting was addressed by Colonels McKoy, of Sampson, Allen, of Brunswick, and Richardson, of Bladen. These gentlemen—natural orators—held the audience spell-bound for over two hours, and gave to the people timely warning and wholesome advice, pointing out clearly and forcibly the untold evils and calamities that must befall them in the event of the ratification of the infamous Radical-scamag Constitution. While this was going on in the Court House, one Hood—(negro)—had commenced a harangue to the colored people outside, which consisted altogether in an appeal to their passions and prejudices, and which was merely gotten up for the purpose of drawing the negroes off from us and to keep them from hearing, and as a consequence, benefited by the good advice which they would have heard from the above named gentlemen.

Some of the blacks did hear the speech of Col. Richardson, and their repeated cheers was an evidence of their unqualified approval of what he said. It was announced at the door of the Court House on Wednesday, that the Hon. T. C. Fuller would address the citizens of Bladen, and in less than ten minutes after the announcement, the Court House was literally packed with impatient waiters to hear Mr. Fuller.

He was introduced to the audience by Mr. Thomas H. Sutton in a brief manner, at the conclusion of which introduction the loud and vociferous cheers of the people brought Mr. Fuller to his feet. In a speech of about two hours length Mr. F. covered the whole ground, presenting forcibly the vital issues before the people, exposing the dishonesty of the Reconstruction acts, and pointing out the disgraceful degradation to which our people would bring upon themselves, by a ready and voluntary acquiescence in the terms of Reconstruction offered by the Republican party. The satisfaction his remarks gave, and the approbation of them by his hearers, was manifested by the frequent and rapturous bursts of applause with which he was greeted.

As an evidence of the determination of the people of Bladen to roll up a good and handsome majority against the vile thing called a Constitution, at the next election, I will give you the resolutions as submitted by the Committee and adopted by our County Convention on Monday:

WHEREAS, We, the Conservatives of the county of Bladen in Convention assembled, are not indifferent, and have no disposition to remain inactive in the great struggle now going on in this State to throw off the burden of "Radical misrule" which threatens a subversion of our time-honored system of government, and would, if uncheckered, in a short time reduce us to the most degrading condition of servitude and degradation; therefore

Resolved, That the action of the State Conservative Convention, in selecting candidates to fill the several State offices, and the plan of operation adopted by said Convention, are approved and unqualifiedly approved of every Conservative of Bladen county; and that, in the gentlemen nominated, we recognize men of integrity, ability and patriotism, and who are qualified in every way competent and qualified to discharge the duties incumbent upon them with credit to the county and honor to the State.

Resolved, That the citizens of Bladen county are not willing that they should be behind in the race to good government. The first step in the next election are determined to give more substantial proofs of zeal and earnestness in endeavoring to overthrow the tyrannical and despotic rule which has been inaugurated by the Radicals, and they hereby pledge their hearty co-operation with the Conservative party of the State, and their active support of our ticket.

Resolved, That the nominating Convention of the County of Bladen, in selecting as their candidates for the next election, John A. Richardson, of this county, lay a well earned and well deserved tribute to the ability and patriotism of the citizens of the county, and that they commend him to the support of their fellow-citizens of Bladen county who acknowledge and appreciate, and are determined to assure to the citizens of the counties constituting the District, that the Convention have fallen upon a man whom we have no way, found wanting, and if elected, we guarantee that he will discharge the duties incident to the office of Senator, with credit to himself, to the office and to the State.

Resolved, That in W. W. Holden, we behold a rascal and a political wheeler-dealer, who, in no way, is the candidate of any class living in North Carolina; one whose legal nomination has justly been questioned by the party of which he alleges he is a member, and the people of the county do now, and will in the future, as they have in the past, show to the State that they despise, condemn and repudiate such an associate.

Resolved, That those resolutions both in spirit and letter, express without an exception the views of the Conservatives of Bladen county.

Thursday the "Loll" Leaguers were out in full force; speeches were made by the "Big-footed" Frenchman and the white-eyed Fisher-man. One Price, from Wilmington, (son of the old man) was also there, lending a helping hand to the "Loll" Leaguers in their efforts to inaugurate French and Fisher. My contempt for these detestable men is too great to be expressed, and I was sorry to see any one raised in good old Wilmington in such bad company, and if George don't quit there he will be stamping in their contaminating company. I understand that the said George aspires to be the representative of the people of New Hanover in our next Legislature. Such seems to be the order of things now, and we can only continue to draw upon our stock of patience and bear with it for awhile. They will say, however, that I would rather be represented by such a man as George, and would, with tenfold more confidence, place the destinies and future well or woe of our State in his hands than such men as French or Fisher, who, compared with the despised George, sink down into comparative insignificance.

A large crowd of negroes had assembled to hear the Radical speakers, and while it was going on a wish on the part of the negroes was expressed that Col. Richardson be invited to reply to his competitor, Fisher. Col. R. accepted the call, and made an impressive and telling speech, the good effect of which will, I am sure, be felt on the day of election. His arguments were logical and unanswerable, or at least as yet, unanswered, and from the uneasiness visible on the faces of French and Fisher, I judge they were sufficiently amused.

The county canvassers are at work and doing effective service in the great work meetings are being held at the various precincts, and at each meeting a Conservative speaker is present to point out the danger with which the people are environed.

Judge Barnes presided at our court with ability and dignity, administering the little law that is left us, and with a remarkable discrimination steering steadily between the various conflicting stay laws, in force by the Bogus so-called, and the military powers that be, fairly, impartially and with satisfaction to all.

Very little business was transacted on the civil docket in consequence of the latest stay law. One capital case was decided, which was the case of the State vs. P. Lee, who was indicted for murder in Columbus county. The prosecution was conducted by the Solicitor, Hon. J. G. Shepherd and J. W. Stanley, Esq. The prisoner was ably and successfully defended by Col. Robert Strange and J. Willis and F. George, Esqs. the jury returning a verdict of "not guilty"—at which I imagine the prisoner was very well satisfied. The evidence in this case was altogether circumstantial and the State could not satisfy the jury, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the prisoner was guilty.

The enumeration of the events that have transpired warrant me in saying at closing, as I did in opening, that the week just closed has been an exciting one in Bladen.

For the Journal.

AWFUL CONFLAGRATION IN WAREHOUSE—TERRIBLE DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY.

WADESBORO', April 2, 1868.

Editors of the Wilmington Journal:—I write you to give you the particulars, as far as can be ascertained, of the terrible calamity which has desolated our town during the last twenty-four hours, and has laid all the business portion of it in ashes. This morning there are many melancholy faces and heavy hearts here, and many apprehend it will be a long time before the town will be built up as closely as before this calamity.

About one o'clock this morning the distressing cry of "fire" was raised, caused, it was found, by the Anson Hotel and buildings adjoining, (facing South of it), being in a blaze. The buildings were old and composed of very combustible materials, and the flames fanned by a fresh breeze, rapidly spread, so much so as to barely allow time for some of the occupants and guests at the Hotel to escape. On that block the fire destroyed the buildings on the West of the Hotel, known as offices, and also South of it as far as the residence of James Threadgill. From the Hotel the fire spread to the buildings on the North side of the street, destroying five of them, thence to and including the Court House, and East on that block around to and including the Jail; East of the Hotel to the store houses of J. A. Crawford and Arnold & Cooley, and South to and including the Conner house, occupied by John Ryan.

The origin of the fire is in doubt; reports are very conflicting, as to whether it was accidental or the work of an incendiary; and as to whether it originated in the Hotel building or the buildings adjoining.

So far as I have been able to ascertain, the losses are estimated as follows. None of the parties named had insurance on either their buildings or stocks:

Anson Hotel, owned by G. B. Threadgill, Sheriff, J. Denton Burns, Lessee. Mr. Burns lost all of his stock of bedding and furniture, and his family and household goods. He also lost about thirty bales of cotton, and three thousand pounds of bacon. His individual loss is about \$6,000. The building is estimated as worth about \$3,000.

Coming South, the next building was occupied by J. R. Hargrove, and was owned by W. H. Mills, as a warehouse. Mr. Hargrove had stored in it five bales of cotton and a lot of iron, and Mr. Mills, four bales of cotton and a lot of bacon. Mr. Hargrove's loss, including building and cotton, about \$700, and Mr. Mills' about \$500.

Next South, building belonging to Mrs. Duncan, and occupied by Messrs. Morton & Breeman, as a dry goods store. Mr. Duncan's loss is about \$1,000, and Messrs. M. & B. in stock, about \$4,000.

Next South, storehouse belonging to G. Willoughby and four offices, the last occupied by J. P. Billings & Co., as a grocery, and the offices, one as a sleeping room attached to the grocery, the next by James Dismauke (colored) as saleroom for his bakery, and the other two by J. E. Willoughby. In the storehouse Mr. Willoughby had about 130 bushels of corn, which was also destroyed. His loss is about \$3,500. His tenants' losses are small, as most of their stock was moved in time.

Mr. Willoughby also lost three offices on the row east of the postoffice, which are covered in the above estimate.

Immediately north of the hotel the buildings consumed are; building on the corner, formerly occupied as a drug store, but a short while since by J. N. Proggan as a family grocery. At the time of the fire it was unoccupied. It belonged to S. D. Cole; loss about \$1,300.

The storehouse next adjoining, belonging to Rev. A. E. Bennett, and occupied as a family grocery by J. N. Boggan. Mr. Bennett's loss is about \$1,500, and Mr. Boggan's \$500. Mr. B. was able to save a portion of his stock.

Next building, belonging to Jesse Edwards and occupied by Dr. W. C. Ramsey, as a family grocery. Mr. Edwards' loss is \$1,500, and Dr. Ramsey's in partial loss of stock \$1,200.

The next building west of this, occupied as a private residence, by extraordinary exertions, was saved, and the further progress of the destroyer arrested.

The next building north of the corner on this block, belonging to Rowland Crump and occupied by J. Heilbron as a dry goods store, was also destroyed, with nearly all its contents. Mr. Crump's loss is about \$1,200, and Mr. Heilbron's \$1,200.

Crossing to the East side of the main street, running North and South, the corner house, with all its records, excepting those in the Recorder's office, was destroyed.

The flames extended down the whole of this block to, and including, the office lately occupied by Dr. Glass, and the county jail.

The building next to the court house, belonging to Mrs. E. A. Pickett, of Alabama, (sister of Hon. Thos. S. Ashe, one of our candidates for Governor) was occupied by Messrs. Smith & Coppage, and the building adjoining was occupied by Dr. W. S. Jones, shoemaker and Mr. Elly Davis, watchmaker. Mrs. Pickett's loss is about \$1,300; Messrs. Smith & Coppage's

about \$500 and Mr. Jones's \$400. Mr. Davis's loss is slight.

The next building belonged to W. H. Brick, formerly postmaster—the building was well occupied as a postoffice. The mail matter in the office, so far as known, was saved; but Mr. J. H. Wheeler, who occupied the rear of the building as a shoe shop, lost all his tools and a small lot of stock. Mr. Patrick's loss is about \$500.

The next building, belonging to Dr. W. J. Jones, of Georgia, was occupied, in part, by Dr. E. P. Ashe as his medical office. We do not know Mr. Ashe's loss; Dr. Jones's loss is about \$500.

The next three buildings (offices, so-called), belonged to G. W. W. Willoughby and have hitherto been noticed.

In the same row were two offices, one occupied by D. W. Heggan, carpenter, and the other by a colored family. With a slight opening, came another building, formerly occupied by Dr. Glass as an office, but up to the fire by Capt. Wm. Macfarland, Freedman's Bureau Agent.

This building, belonging to Mr. E. C. Nichols of Mississippi. Mr. E's loss is about \$800.

And next the Jail, coming south of the Court House, and east of the Hotel, the store houses of Messrs. Arnold & Cooley and J. A. Crawford; office of Ashe & Hargrove; the saddlery shop of John Boykin; the brick store occupied by John Nichols & Little; the building known as the printing office, in which the Argus was printed, and the two buildings adjoining, one occupied as a residence and store by John Ryan, all fell before the destroyer.

Belonging to the destroyer were Mr. Colwell's, belonging to S. W. Cole. Mr. Colwell's loss in this building, as also the shop of Mr. Boykin, is about \$2,300. Mr. Crawford's loss in stock is about \$2,000. We do not know Mr. Boykin's loss.

Messrs. Arnold & Cooley lost in stock about \$2,000. Mr. Arnold's loss in the store and office of A. E. Bennett, was about \$3,000. Messrs. McLaughlin & Little lost some \$500 in stock, and the Argus office, a large Washington Press, a standing order for large quantities of stationery, and other material, in all about \$1,000.

Mr. Ryan's loss in buildings and stock is between \$2,500 and \$3,000.

As you will perceive our losses are about \$30,000—a low estimate.

Many men who were striving to revive the business of the place, have lost nearly their all, and God only knows when the ghastly wound made upon our village's face will ever be healed over. As a community we are prostrated.

Besides the great loss upon the community of the town, the people surrounding us must feel some of the consequences of this loss. All were more or less dependent upon the stores for their supplies of provisions, and unless the stocks are replenished pretty soon there must be suffering.

I have not the heart to write you more now.

YOURS, OCCASIONAL.

CONSERVATIVE MASS MEETING.

ENTHUSIASTIC RALLY OF THE CITIZENS.

Notwithstanding the very inclement weather last evening a large and in elegant audience of his white people of our city assembled in Thalian Hall to listen to the addresses of the able gentlemen previously announced to speak on this important subject. Many ladies were debarred the opportunity of attending, owing to the weather, but if it was possible to compensate for their absence, that compensation was manifest in the enthusiasm which prevailed.

The meeting was organized by calling Col. J. G. Dunn to the Chair. Upon taking his seat the Chairman in a brief and appropriate remarks addressed the meeting. He said that he was not political and only a deep and abiding sense of duty led him to thus publicly come before them. The true issue he conceived to be whether the white man or the black man shall control the government of North Carolina. If there be any man who would abridge from his duty in this hour, he was not the man.

Hon. Thos. C. FULLER, the Conservative candidate for Congress from this District, was then introduced for over an hour, claiming the attention of the audience in a most stirring, eloquent and able address. The position maintained by the white men of the State from the commencement of the ever-memorable "Lost Cause" to the present time, including that held towards the negro, was reviewed with much force. The great issues involved in this contest, as contained in the so-called Constitution submitted for our adoption, were discussed and presented in all their bearings, and revealing the true character of the proposed constitution, and its various inconsistencies, his ability and his whole past record, so far as the material points were concerned, held up to the view of the audience. Calmly, forcibly and with deep and determined zeal, he pointed out the dangers here, and the mode of remedy of which we should avail ourselves. The effort of this gentleman gave the most perfect and entire satisfaction, and the words which fell from his lips were received deeply on the minds of his hearers. With undeniable truth he asserted that social equality flows from political equality; if we permit the one the other will be forced upon us.

At the close of this gentleman's speech, Col. E. D. HALL, our fellow-townsmen, and the Conservative white man's candidate for Lieutenant Governor, appeared and in a most argumentative, practical and telling address held the audience in rapt attention for about an hour. This was the first speech Col. HALL has made here since the commencement of the campaign, and if his efforts elsewhere have been equal to this, we have no fears but that they will exert a most wholesome influence for the good of the cause and the welfare of the State. He carried conviction with every word he uttered, which amounted to a truth, and the effect was perfectly irresistible. The enormities of that infamous thing of a Constitution were clearly and forcibly portrayed. Calmly and fearlessly and with undaunted front he stood, assuming the position of an exponent of the pure principles of Conservatism and its party, in defiance of consequences. Never have we heard a more happy hour from this gentleman.

At the conclusion of Colonel HALL's speech, the meeting adjourned. We regret that during these speeches a large number of the negroes in the gallery (which was reserved for the special accommodation of this class) should so far have exhibited the effects of Radical teachings as to behave in a most rude and unbecoming manner in the presence of those who had at least done their best to teach them what proper deportment is. After being reminded by Col. HALL of the fact that this was the occasion of a Conservative meeting, and that they were there to invite guests, and they did not know how to behave themselves, a way would be found to make them the more noisy portion left. To their credit be it said, many of the negroes in the gallery had the good sense to remain and conducted themselves properly throughout. Care should be taken to guard against further annoyance in this manner.

Daily Journal, 4th.

REGISTRATION.—For the benefit of our readers we publish the following announcements in regard to the session of the Registration Boards for this county:

In the First Registration Precinct, comprising the city of Wilmington, the Board will sit at the city Hall.

In the Second Registration Precinct, comprising Middle Sound, Topsail, Sound, Rocky Point, Holly Shelter, Mansboro' Sound and Federal Point, the Board will sit at Middle Sound.

In the Third Registration Precinct, comprising South Washington, Upper Black River, Lower Black River, Caintock, Long Creek and Piney Grove, the Board will sit at Piney Grove.

The session of the several Boards will continue for five days, commencing Tuesday, April 7th.